

**SHOREVIEW CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES
November 12, 2013**

ATTENDEES:

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley and Wickstrom

Councilmember Withhart was absent.

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager
Jeanne Haapala, Finance Director
Fred Espe, Asst. Finance Director
Tessia Melvin, Asst. to City Manager
Mark Maloney, Public Works Director

BWBR Steve Erickson
Architects Greg Fenton

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CENTER EXPANSION PLANS

Presentation by BWBR Architects

City Manager Schwerm presented the timeline of the project to date. To date, a visioning portion was done by staff, Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council has met twice with architects. The next step will be to present the concepts and Council comments to the Parks and Recreation Commission. After that meeting, staff will present more detailed concepts to the City Council at a workshop meeting.

Steve presented the Council four concept plans and noted that all of the features within each plan can be extracted and moved to another plan.

Option A includes additional banquet room, expanded cardio room and new space for the Indoor Play area. Areas of concerns with this option may include additional parking may be required for the added banquet room. The biggest concern with this concept is due to the construction required for the banquet facility and the additional 300-350 people added to the building, does the parking spaces allow for this? This option will also result in the loss of parking, entry plaza on the lower level and loss of the track due to the suggested construction.

In this option the Indoor Play area would be moved towards the entrance of the Community Center, the gym gets moved toward the back, and where the current gym is four multi-purpose rooms would be added. In this option, the cardio room would be pushed out, which would result in the reduction of 10 parking spaces. The Wave Café and registration area moves towards the location of the current fitness center. In addition, the plan includes a covered four-season link to the Pavilion area with the addition of another multi-purpose building.

Councilmember Quigley added his concerns about expansion to the pavilion, as it has many building structure concerns with its original makeup. Councilmember Johnson reminded the Council that the intent was to utilize the pavilion more and potentially shift some of the summer discovery functions to another location.

Ericson added that option A would add a banquet room above the four multi-purpose/fitness rooms, which would result in the loss of the track. The option also includes an added deck off the Shoreview Room and new banquet room.

Option B provides the Indoor Play at the front entrance, expands the banquet room and relocates the cardio, gym and fitness area. This option makes the cardio area and fitness remote from the locker room. With the expansion of the banquet room, there is some loss of the fire-side lounge area. With the moving of the gym, it becomes further away from the registration area. In this option the Indoor Play area moves to the current cardio room and the gym moves to the current location of the Indoor Play area. The gym turns into two fitness studios and two cardio areas. This option also expands the Shoreview Room and adds two fitness studios to the upper level of the Community Center.

Option C provides for a cardio/fitness expansion and the Indoor Play area is expanded in its current location. The gym and track are not changed in this option; however, two fitness areas would be added to the gym expanding towards the pavilion. The cardio area expands to the east of its current location and adds another fitness/multi-purpose area. This will expand the Shoreview Room to the east and adds a deck. This option encroaches on the pavilion as all expansions are towards the east. With the Indoor Play area in its current location, it is remote from the café and other area.

Councilmember Quigley stated that he believes Option C provides the best solutions to meet the needs of staff and Community Center members.

Option D provides an expansion to the Indoor Play area, but moves its location to the front of the gym, to provide more visibility. This option expands the cardio area expands and the Shoreview Room. This option may negatively impact the parking and the pavilion because of the expansion.

City Manager Schwerm added that the expansion to the Community Room allows the expansion of banquet rooms, with the least amount of interruption to rentals. Adding the

Shoreview Room will result in loss of revenues. Councilmember Johnson added the project should not take six months. There will be some loss of revenue, but we should look at solutions that have a more compressed timeline. She added that it is important to communicate the project to members and remind them of the end result. Greg reminded the City Council that there is a revenue loss and a construction cost to consider.

Councilmember Wickstrom added that she does not favor the covered link from the Community Center and the pavilion. Mayor Martin that she added the multi-purpose room to the pavilion is a great option, but does not have to be something that is completed now. This may be something that is pushed out until 5 or more years.

Mayor Martin added that she like the moving of the Indoor Play area, but questions the cost of moving the equipment. Councilmember Quigley questioned the outdoor pool area. He added that he sees the most important areas to consider the cardio and fitness area, as they benefit all age groups. In addition, the expanded family changing room is important for the member experience.

With the expanded family changing room in Options B and C, they include 5 to 6 new areas and would be connected to the pool. The architects added that the lower level windows would be covered up, but remember that the windows over the pool are two stories.

Councilmember Quigley asked if it is desirable to rent banquet facilities to larger groups. City Manager Schwerm added that it is desirable, but we should not build it and expect a complete payback. City Manager Schwerm added that while a third banquet room would be great, we do not have the parking available for this. According to staff, the banquet room rental addition is not a top priority.

Mayor Martin brought up the idea of the outdoor water play area. Councilmember Wickstrom added some comments about creating something that can be used more than three months a year.

The City Council provided a consensus of appreciation of architects and look forward to hearing comments from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

2014-2015 BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Manager Schwerm began the conversation by looking at the preliminary 2014 property tax levy, which is a 3.4 percent higher than the 2013 levy. Current tax levy projections for the second budget year (2015) reflect a 5.1 percent increase. Public safety costs are one of the primary costs for the levy increase for the General Fund share of the levy.

Councilmember Quigley added that the comments that they most commonly hear is the increase in the homestead market value inclusion. Mayor Martin added that the 3.4 percent

increase for 2014 is reasonable, but asked the flexibility for the 5.1 percent increase for 2015. City Manager Schwerm added that unfortunately there is not much flexibility, if the Parks and Recreation Director is added. However, he is concerned with the levy increase shown in 2015.

Mayor Martin asked about the changes in tax values. Finance Director Haapala added that the City only collects what it levies, and does not receive additional monies just because tax values increase. In the State of Minnesota, the amount a city levies is what they collect. Councilmember Johnson added that it is important for the City to be able to articulate what is happening in 2015, as the Community Center will be expanded and there will be an added Parks Director. Taxpayers will see increase of taxes.

The major changes include public safety which include the implementation of the duty-crew program and increased police costs for patrol, investigations, dispatch and animal control. Another added cost is legal costs due to the higher prosecution costs and the transition to a new law firm.

Other increases include the pay plan adjustment of 2% for employees and the \$75 increase to the City's monthly health insurance contribution. This is about a \$108,000 increase. Staffing changes that result in cost reallocations include the addition of a Parks and Recreation Director position in August 2014 and a part-time Human Resources position. Community Development is looking to add a customer service part-time position. There was discussion on the Healthcare reform and the amount of staff time needed to implement and track these new mandates.

City Manager Schwerm added that there are about \$200,000 increase in transfer revenues from the utility fund and our Cable TV fund.

City Manager Schwerm added that the biggest increase in 2015 is public safety and staff changes.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked if the City needs to do a community survey every two years. City Manager Schwerm added that staff tried budget to complete a full survey every 5 years and ever two years a smaller survey. These are important to help with performance measure for the City's budget. Councilmember Quigley also suggested that it is important to collect opinions and concerns in a timely manner.

Finance Director Haapala provided an update on tax rates for the various jurisdictions. Ramsey County's tax rate is decreasing. The County has estimated that fifty nine percent of homes will receive a decrease or no change in their property taxes. Another 17 percent of homes will receive a \$1 to \$100 increase to their taxes.

Mayor Martin added that the budget does not include funding for any of the current railroad issues that have come to the attention of the City Council. Adding quiet zones may be very expensive for the City.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Wickstrom provided an update from the Met Council projections for 2040, which places our population at 37,000. She reminded the Council that there is a deadline to respond to the Met Council with our concerns about these population estimates.

Councilmember Wickstrom added that she was at a Falcon Heights council meeting, where they discussed e-cigarettes. City Manager Schwerm added that staff has drafted an ordinance regarding e-cigarettes, which will be presented to the Public Safety Committee within the next month. There is much concern on the growth of this area and how this is used in public buildings and lounges. The Public Safety Committee asked about the health data of e-cigarettes, which there is little statistics on this.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked about the amount of snakes allowed by residents with the recent police report in the Bulletin.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.